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XXXVI.—*On some rare or unfigured Eggs of Palæartic Birds.* By H. E. DRESSER, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., &c.

(Plate X.)

IN continuation of former papers on the subject*, I now beg leave to offer to the readers of 'The Ibis' some further notes on rare or unfigured eggs of the birds of the Eastern Palæartic area, with illustrations.

(1) LUSCINIOLA AËDON. Thick-billed Warbler. (Pl. X. figs. 1, 2.)

Lusciniola aëdon Dresser, Man. Pal. B. p. 124.

This Warbler is not uncommon in Dauria, where Messrs. Dybowski and Godlewski found it nesting almost everywhere. An egg obtained by these gentlemen was figured as long ago as 1873 (J. f. O. 1873, Taf. i. fig. 1) by Taczanowski.

* See 'Ibis' 1901, p. 445; 1902, p. 177; 1903, pp. 88, 404; and 1904, pp. 106, 280. In the last paper I regret to find that an error has occurred in the "Explanation of the Plate" (p. 283). Figures 1 and 3 represent the eggs of *Pycnonotus leucotis*, and figures 4 and 5 those of *Chimarrhornis leucocephalus*.

The bird arrives in Dauria late in May, and is found breeding in the latter half of June. The nest is placed on a shrub, often a *Spirœa*, at a height of from one to five feet from the ground, and five eggs usually make the full clutch, though, in rare cases, four and six have been found. The nest is constructed of dry grass, neatly lined with finer grass and sometimes with horsehair. When fresh the ground-colour of the eggs is rosy red, very seldom pale rusty red, but it soon fades.

The eggs figured were obtained by Dr. Dybowski in Amoorland.

(2) *MOTACILLA MADARASPATENSIS*. Large Pied Wagtail. (Pl. X. figs. 3, 4.)

Motacilla madaraspatis Dresser, Man. Pal. B. p. 199.

The eggs of this bird, so far as I know, have never been figured.

This Wagtail places its nest in a hole in a bank, under a stone, in the woodwork of a bridge, and in other suitable places, but always in the neighbourhood of water. The eggs are usually laid in March, April, or May. The character and materials of the nest are very variable; it may be a mere depression in the bare earth or a neat shallow structure, formed of fine twigs, grass, roots, wool, feathers, hair, rags, or any soft materials. The eggs, usually four in number, vary greatly in size and shape from a long to a rather broad oval, and in colour from greenish white with greenish-brown markings to earthy white with dingy white markings. In size they average 0·9 by 0·66 inch. The examples figured are from near Ahmednugger, India, where they were taken by Lieut. Barnes on the 29th of April, 1893.

(3) *ORIOIUS KUNDOO*. Indian Oriole. (Pl. X. figs. 16, 18.)

Oriolus kundoo Dresser, Man. Pal. B. p. 227.

This bird, the representative in the East of our Golden Oriole (*O. galbula*), breeds from May to August, but chiefly in June and July. Its nest, in form a moderately deep purse or pocket, is hung from the forks of two twigs, and

is constructed of fine grass and slender strips of bark. According to Mr. Oates, some nests contain no extraneous matter, but others have all kinds of odds and ends—scraps of newspaper and cloth, shavings, rags, snake-skins, and threads—woven into the exterior, while the interior is always neatly lined with fine grass-stems. The fabric varies a good deal in size.

The eggs, usually numbering three or four in a clutch, though sometimes only two, are of a glossy white, suffused with delicate salmon-pink when fresh and unblown, and somewhat sparingly spotted and blotched, chiefly at the larger end, with black; they closely resemble those of *Oriolus galbula*. They vary, according to Mr. Oates, in length from 1.03 to 1.32, in breadth from 0.75 to 0.87; while the average size of fifty eggs was 1.11 by 0.81 inch.

The specimens figured were taken by Mr. William Jesse near Lucknow in 1898.

(4) *ORIOIUS INDICUS*. Black-naped Oriole. (Pl. X. figs. 14, 17.)

Oriolus indicus Dresser, Man. Pal. B. p. 228.

This Oriole breeds in Dauria, the Ussuri country, and Northern China, but I do not find any particulars on record respecting its nidification, except that it agrees with *Oriolus galbula* in the position and construction of its nest.

The two eggs of this species now figured were obtained by the brothers Dorries in Amoorland in 1889.

(5) *CYANOPTILA CYANOMELÆNA*. Japanese Blue Flycatcher. (Pl. X. figs. 5, 6.)

Cyanoptila cyanomelæna Dresser, Man. Pal. B. p. 258.

This Flycatcher breeds in Japan, and also, according to Godlewski, in the Ussuri district, though he never succeeded in finding its nest there. The nest is placed in a mossy bank, and the eggs, usually five, but sometimes six in number, are laid from early in May to the middle of July. They vary but little, and are greyish white with very faint darker markings, chiefly at the larger end. The specimens in my collection average 0.76 by 0.64 inch in dimensions.

(6) *LANIUS VITTATUS*. Bay-backed Shrike. (Pl. X. figs. 7, 8.)

Lanius vittatus Dresser, Man. Pal. B. p. 237.

According to Mr. Oates, this Shrike breeds throughout the plains of India, and in the sub-Himalayan ranges up to an elevation of fully 4000 feet; while its eggs are to be found from April to September, but chiefly in the latter half of June and July. The nest is placed in the fork of a slender bough, usually in a small tree or bush, and is compactly constructed of twigs, grass-stems, cobwebs, wool, rags, feathers, and occasionally a little grass; it is lined with tow, hair, bits of cotton, and fine grass. The number of eggs is usually five, but occasionally six. Those figured were obtained by Mr. Jesse near Lucknow, on the 5th of June, 1901.

The eggs vary a good deal in size, but Mr. Oates gives the average measurements of forty-five as 0·83 by 0·66 inch.

(7) *TERPSIPHONE PARADISI*. Indian Paradise Flycatcher. (Pl. X. figs. 9, 10.)

Terpsiphone paradisi Dresser, Man. Pal. B. p. 260.

The Paradise Flycatcher breeds in Afghanistan within the Eastern Palearctic area, and in the warmer valleys of the Himalayas up to an elevation of nearly 6000 feet. It also nests on the plains of India. The breeding-season is in May, June, or July, according to locality. The small cup-shaped nest is neatly and compactly formed of moss, fine grass, rootlets, fine fibres, cobwebs, and occasionally a little horsehair. It is placed in the fork of a tree, between upright twigs, or on a branch. The eggs, usually four in number, do not vary much; they are pale pinkish white or salmon-pink in ground-colour, with brownish-red spots, and measure about 0·8 by 0·6 inch.

The two eggs figured are from the same clutch, and were taken near Rajpore, India, in July 1891.

(8) *TERPSIPHONE PRINCEPS*. Japanese Paradise Flycatcher. (Pl. X. figs. 11, 12.)

Terpsiphone princeps Dresser, Man. Pal. B. p. 261.



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